REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated December 6, 2001. Applicant has amended Claims 22 and 26 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

It is asserted in the present *Office Action* that the Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") filed October 16, 2000 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. Sec. 1.98(a)2. Applicants respectfully disagree, noting that the IDS filed October 16, 2000 complied with 37 C.F.R. Sec. 1.98(d) which is an exception to Sec. 1.98(a)2 provided in the Rules. Attached hereto is a copy of the letter of Transmittal, signed by John J. Arnott, that accompanied the IDS in question and pointed out in the second paragraph that the references listed on the PTO-1449 were previously submitted in a prior application, which is relied on in the current application for an earlier filing date, and that copies "are not provided herein" pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Sec. 1.98(d). Applicants respectfully request the entry and consideration of the IDS filed October 16, 2000.

In the present Office Action, Claims 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. at. No. 6,199,048, *Hudetz et al.* (hereinafter "Hudetz"). This rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

Regarding Claim 22, the first subparagraph of Applicants' Claim 22 as amended reads: "providing an input device coupled to the first location on the global communication network, the input device having associated therewith a unique input device ID." Nowhere is it disclosed, taught or suggested in *Hudetz* that the input device (44) has "associated therewith a unique input device ID." Further, the local host computer (28) in *Hudetz* may indeed have its own address but such address would not then be the unique input device ID" associated with the input device of the Applicants' claimed invention.

Further regarding Claim 22, the second subparagraph of Claim 22 as amended reads, in part: "scanning a product code . . . operable to extract the information contained in the product code to provide a unique value as an output." This step is not the same as scanning a bar code to generate a signal corresponding to the numeric address encoded by the bar code, as disclosed in *Hudetz* Col. 11, lines 31-34, because, first, a bar code may have other "information" which may be extracted besides a numeric address, and second, generating a signal corresponding to the numeric address is not necessarily the same as providing a unique value as an output. Further regarding Claim 22, the third subparagraph of Claim 22 as amended reads: "associating the unique value with the unique input device ID in a message packet." Hudetz does not disclose such a step.

In view of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection and the reconsideration of Claim 22 as amended.

Regarding Claims 23, 24, 25 and 27, Applicants' Claim 23 recites retrieving from the database the routing information associated with "the output unique value" presented for comparison; whereas *Hudetz* discloses retrieving all records having UPC fields matching the UPC entered by the user for display at the user location so the user may choose a record of interest. In Applicants' invention the routing information is retrieved automatically in the event of a match and the connection to the second location is completed; in *Hudetz* the URL from the database is not loaded from the database *until* the user *selects* it from the list of records displayed; see e.g., Col. 9, line 21 describing step 90 of FIG. 5. Moreover, even in an alternate embodiment of step 90 in FIG. 5, in which a retrieved URL can be loaded automatically, the user must still *select* whether to enable or disable the ability to provide this alternate process. In *Hudetz*, the connection is not made until the selection step is performed, a step not needed in the Applicants' claim 23. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection and the allowance of Claim 23.

Regarding Claims 24 and 25, which depend respectively from Claim 22, now believed patentable over the cited art, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 24 and 25 are moot.

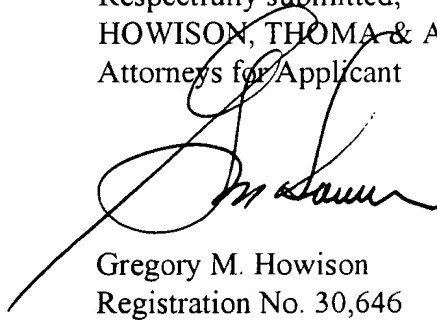Similarly, the rejection of Claim 27, depending from Claim 23 also believed patentable over the cited art, is likewise moot. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of these rejections and the reconsideration of Claims 23-27.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/PHLY-24,913 of HOWISON, THOMA & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
S/N 09/494,924
Atty. Dkt. No. PHLY-24,913

22. (Amended) A method for interconnecting a first location on a global communication network with a second location thereon, comprising the steps of:

providing an input device [at] <u>coupled to</u> the first location on the global communication network,<u>'the input device</u> having associated therewith a

5   unique input device ID;

scanning a product code disposed on a product with the input device, which product code is representative of the product in commercial transactions, the step of scanning operable to extract the information contained in the product code to provide a unique value as an output;

10   associating the unique value with the unique input device ID <u>in a message packet</u>; and

in response to the step of scanning and the step of associating, connecting the first location to the second location.

26. (Amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein the step of accessing the database comprises the steps of:

accessing a remote location on the global communication network at an intermediate node thereon;

5   forwarding the unique value and unique device ID to the intermediate node;

wherein the database is disposed at the intermediate node;

retrieving the associated routing information from the database in the event of a positive [mach]<u>match</u> and forwarding the retrieved routing information

10   back to the first location and connecting the first location to the second location in accordance with the retrieved information.